

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-20, 22 and 24 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. A version of the claims is at pages 2-5. Claims 1 and 3-9 stand allowed. Independent claims 10, 18 and 19 have been amended herein to incorporate features deemed allowable by the Examiner. To this end, it is believed that the subject patent application is in condition for allowance. Entrance of these amendments is respectfully requested as they do not necessitate a new search or any undue effort by the Examiner because they do not present new claimed subject matter. Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

I. Rejection of Claims 10-20 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 10-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Shepard *et al.* (US 5,130,520). Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested in view of the amendments to independent claims 10, 18 and 19, which incorporate subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

II. Rejection of Claims 22 and 24 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 22 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shepard, *et al.* (US 5,130,520). In view of the incorporation of allowable subject matter into independent claim 19 (from which claims 22 and 24 depend from), this rejection is now moot and should be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [SYMBP155US].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

AMIN, TUROCY & CALVIN, LLP

/Himanshu S. Amin/

Himanshu S. Amin

Reg. No. 40,894

AMIN, TUROCY & CALVIN, LLP
24TH Floor, National City Center
1900 E. 9TH Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
Telephone (216) 696-8730
Facsimile (216) 696-8731